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**OUR VIEW**

# Emergency scanners a critical tool for public

Police scanners have been the background noise in newsrooms as long as the technology has been available. And journalists have long been tasked having one ear tuned to them, speeding out the door as soon as the fire department is dispatched to a blaze or police and medics are dispatched to an accident scene.

Once on scene, we do our best to stay out of the way of emergency crews, while being witness to the event and passing along the story, photo and video to our customers once we have verified facts and information.

We're not the only non-law enforcement officials who listen to emergency scanners, however. For decades, many private citizens have used the scanners to stay apprised of emergency chatter. Social media has changed the power and reach of those people, as well as others who can listen remotely via online scanner apps.

Some of those people could be criminals, using the scanner for nefarious reasons. A person could wait to hear when police are in another section of the county for instance, then commit a crime. Though no evidence of this happening in Eastern Oregon has been brought forward,

radio and data districts are hoping to encrypt scanner traffic, so that police can communicate over non-public airwaves.

We're opposed to that plan. It raises taxpayer costs while providing negligible benefit to emergency crews. Law enforcement has long had workarounds to the public scanner, including two-way radios and the ever-present cell phone technology.

**Police scanners help keep the public apprised of the actions of our emergency responders. It should remain that way.**

We understand that sometimes scanner traffic is the enemy of good police work. We don't expect officers to use it when setting up a sting, or to communicate their position or strategy in a SWAT environment. But the minutia of police activity requires scrutiny. When an emergency situation arises, it is critical to get factual important information disseminated as quickly as possible. Oftentimes, emergency responders and responsible media are partners in that endeavor, warning people to get out of the way of a wildfire, or avoid a road that has been closed due to an accident.

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Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of publisher Kathryn Brown, managing editor Daniel Wattenburger, and opinion page editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

**OTHER VIEWS**

# The New York attack: Terror by the ton

The Chicago Tribune

Imagine the scene along Chicago's lakefront path on a typical weekday afternoon. Cyclists cruising in both directions, past runners and darting children just released from school.

Now imagine a rental pickup truck barreling down the path, smashing bicycles and pedestrians for a mile or more.

It happened in Lower Manhattan on Tuesday, not far from the World Trade Center memorial.

A driver bent on mayhem sped down a bike path beside the Hudson River, sending bodies and bicycles flying. He struck a school bus outside a neighborhood landmark, Stuyvesant High, before crashing the truck. Leaping from his vehicle, he brandished a pellet gun and a paintball gun and was shot by a police officer. Even as they scrambled for safety, some people wondered if this was a Halloween prank. Others reached for their cellphones, capturing snippets of the chaos on video: A figure that appears to be the driver, trying to escape on foot. The wreckage of the truck. Crumpled bicycles. Lifeless bodies.

So the pattern established oceans away now visits America. Hamas terrorists had been so successful with vehicle attacks against Israelis that, in 2014, an Islamic State official urged similar attacks across the West. This resort to terror by the ton — cheap and easy to execute — is a paradoxical tribute to the sophisticated protections that have denied extremists many of the conventional weapons, and the easy access to air transport targets, they enjoyed at the turn of this century.

We don't know if this suspect was heeding an Islamic State call to attack trick-or-treaters on Halloween. Or if

only his own twisted thinking drove him to choose this day, this celebration, to attack New Yorkers on this trail in a neighborhood laced with residential buildings and clogged with people traffic — the ultimate soft target.

We've seen enough of these car and truck attacks — in London, Nice, Stockholm, Berlin — to know they are all but impossible to predict or prevent.

Early news reports had Islamic State voices cheering the attack. If so, they'll awaken to the realization that an onslaught in New York — the deadliest attack since 9/11 — doesn't diminish the swift and formidable victory of U.S.-backed forces against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. To the contrary, any terror attack on the West affirms that the job of eradicating this group and others like it isn't finished.

Defeating Islamic State on the battlefields of Mosul and Raqqa has to be followed by a victory in the treacherous terrain of cyberspace. Islamic State can spew hatred and draw terrorist wannabes to its savage cause. It doesn't cost much to brainwash and recruit adherents on the internet.

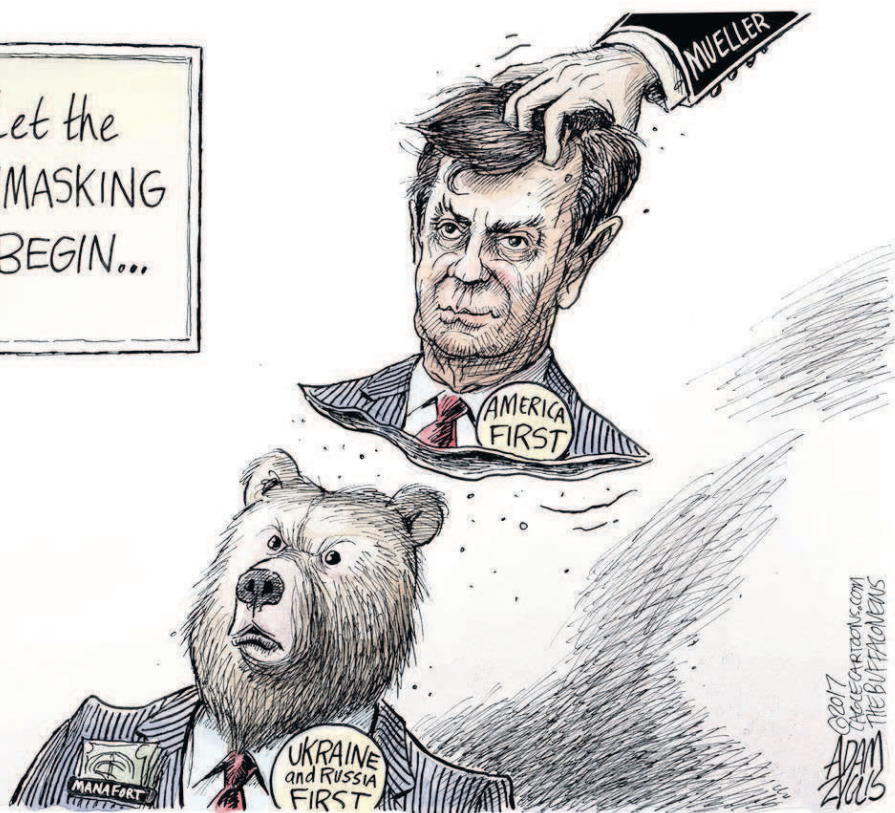
Our hope is that as Islamic State becomes more desperate to avenge its losses to superior forces in its former caliphate, that the appeal of the group will fade. That's the hope.

The reality is that terrorists humbled in one place can regroup in other countries — in Libya, elsewhere in Africa. That's why the Trump administration recently pledged \$60 million to help five African nations build a counterterrorism force.

The New York attack underscores what we've always known: This is a war that will be fought not by one generation, but by this and other generations to come.

**OTHER VIEWS**

Let the UNMASKING BEGIN...



# The plot against America

On Monday morning, after the United States learned that Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, and Manafort's lobbying partner, Rick Gates, had been indicted and turned themselves in to federal authorities, the president tried to distance himself from the unfolding scandal. "Sorry, but this is years ago, before Paul Manafort was part of the Trump campaign," the president wrote in one tweet. A few minutes later, he added, in another, "Also, there is NO COLLUSION!"

At almost the exact same time, news broke suggesting that the FBI has evidence of collusion. We learned that one of the Trump campaign's foreign policy aides, George Papadopoulos, pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his attempts to solicit compromising information on Hillary Clinton from the Russian government. Despite Trump's hysterical denials and attempts at diversion, the question is no longer whether there was cooperation between Trump's campaign and Russia, but how extensive it was.

In truth, that's been clear for a while. If it's sometimes hard to grasp the Trump campaign's conspiracy against our democracy, it's due less to lack of proof than to the impudent improbability of its B-movie plotline. Monday's indictments offer evidence of things that Washington already knows but pretends to forget. Trump, more gangster than entrepreneur, has long surrounded himself with bottom-feeding scum, and for all his nationalist bluster, his campaign was a vehicle for Russian subversion.

We already knew that Manafort offered private briefings about the campaign to Oleg Deripaska, an oligarch close to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The indictment accuses him of having been an unregistered foreign agent for another Putin-aligned oligarch, former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. Trump wasn't paying Manafort, who reportedly sold himself to the candidate by offering to work free. But he intended to profit from his connection with the campaign, emailing an associate, "How do we use to get whole?" If there were no other evidence against Trump, we could conclude that he was grotesquely irresponsible in opening his campaign up to corrupt foreign infiltration.

But of course there is other evidence against Trump. His campaign was told that Russia wanted to help it, and it welcomed such help. On June 3, remember, music publicist Rob Goldstone emailed Donald Trump Jr. to broker a Trump Tower meeting at which a Russian source would deliver "very high level and sensitive information" as "part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump." Trump Jr. responded with delight: "If it's what you say I love it especially later in the summer."

The guilty plea by Papadopoulos indicates what information Trump Jr. might have



**MICHELLE GOLDBERG**  
Comment

been expecting. An obscure figure in foreign policy circles, Papadopoulos was one of five people who Trump listed as foreign policy advisers during a *Washington Post* editorial board meeting last year. A court filing, whose truth Papadopoulos affirms, says that in April 2016, he met with a professor who he "understood to have substantial connections to Russian government officials." The professor told him that Russians had "dirt" on Clinton, including "thousands of emails." (The Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta had been hacked in March.)

In the following months, Papadopoulos and his supervisors emailed back and forth about plans for a campaign trip to Russia. According to the court filing, one campaign official emailed another,

"We need someone to communicate that D.T. is not doing these trips." D.T. clearly stood for Donald Trump. The email continued, "It should be someone low level in the campaign so as not to send any signal."

Thanks to an August *Washington Post* story, we know that this email was sent by Manafort.

Some have interpreted the exchange to mean that Manafort wanted a low-level person to decline the invitation, not to go to Russia. But the court filing also cites a "campaign supervisor" encouraging Papadopoulos and "another foreign policy adviser" to make the trip. Papadopoulos never went to Russia, but foreign policy adviser Carter Page did.

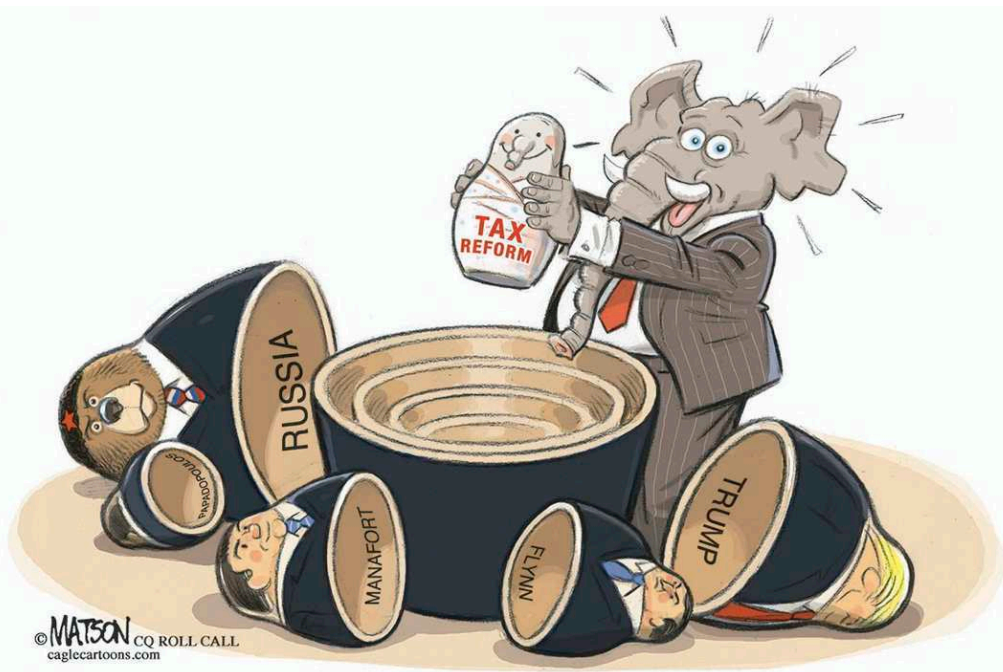
So here's where we are. Trump put Manafort, an accused money-launderer and unregistered foreign agent, in charge of his campaign. Under Manafort's watch, the campaign made at least two attempts to get compromising information about Clinton from Russia. Russia, in turn, provided hacked Democratic emails to WikiLeaks.

Russia also ran a giant disinformation campaign against Clinton on social media and attempted to hack voting systems in at least 21 states. In response to Russia's election meddling, Barack Obama's administration imposed sanctions. Upon taking office, Trump reportedly made secret efforts to lift them. He fired FBI Director James Comey to stop his investigation into "this Russia thing," as he told Lester Holt. The day after the firing, he met with Russia's foreign minister and its ambassador to the United States, and told them: "I faced great pressure because of Russia. That's taken off."

We've had a year of recriminations over the Clinton campaign's failings, but Trump clawed out his minority victory only with the aid of a foreign intelligence service. On Monday we finally got indictments, but it's been obvious for a year that this presidency is a crime.

Michelle Goldberg became an Op-Ed columnist for *The New York Times* in 2017.

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**LETTERS POLICY**

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